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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Naran J. Ivanchukov, age 67, of McLean, VA; George Tsui, age 44, of Clifton, VA; Rex B. Wingerter, age 51, of Hyattsville, MD; Michelle I. Pappadakis, age 21, of Sterling, VA; Bemba Balsirov, age 48, of Howell, NJ; Robert J. Mahood, age 31, of Pocono Lake, PA; and Alice Jia, age 41, were charged today in a superseding indictment alleging conspiracy, immigration fraud, money laundering, and misprision of felony. The indictment alleges that Ivanchukov, the owner of Global Recruitment and Immigration Services, Inc., and Tsui, owner of U.S. Eagle, Inc., conspired with Wingerter, Global's general counsel, Pappadakis, Global's vice president, and Balsirov, Mahood, Jia and others to submit to the Department of Labor and other government agencies, fraudulent immigration-related documents in an effort to obtain "green cards" for aliens.

According to the indictment, the defendants filed hundreds of fraudulent applications for alien labor certification claiming the aliens would work for employers in Virginia, Maryland, and New Jersey, when in fact the jobs did not exist. The indictment also alleges that the defendants falsely claimed that the employers had tried and failed to find qualified U.S. workers to fill the positions, which is a requirement for this employment-based visa program. In fact, according to the indictment, one of the employers was laying off U.S. workers while the defendants were claiming that the aliens would work there, and signatures had been forged in the case of other employers. The indictment also names Paul V. Mederos, who was a manager at one of the employers, as an unindicted co-conspirator. Mederos, who pled guilty to related charges in July 2004, admitted being paid \$211,000 by Global to sign fraudulent labor certifications.

The indictment alleges that Tsui charged aliens seeking to enter the United States tens of thousands of dollars to obtain fraudulent visas in this way. The indictment also alleges that Tsui shared the money he received with Ivanchukov. Ivanchukov and Pappadakis are also charged with money laundering and conspiring to defeat the collection of income taxes. According to the indictment, Ivanchukov and Pappadakis caused Global to keep cash it received in a safe, rather than a bank account, and that it used the cash to pay the defendants' personal expenses.

Mr. McNulty stated, "This is another case of massive fraud demonstrating how criminals undermine and abuse our immigration and visa systems. In this post 9-11 era, these schemes must be detected and prosecuted"

The case was investigated by a team lead by special agents with the Department of Labor's Office of Inspector General, with the assistance of agents from the Internal Revenue

Service, Criminal Investigations, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of State's Office of Inspector General, and the Department of Homeland Security. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys James P. Gillis and John T. Morton.

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